

ASTROLEPIS SINUATA (PTERIDACEAE) NEW
TO THE FLORA OF LOUISIANA

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ABSTRACT

Astrolepis sinuata is reported new for the flora of Louisiana.

RESUMEN

Astrolepis sinuata se cita como nueva para la flora de Luisiana.

A recent collection of *Astrolepis sinuata* (Lag. ex Sw.) Benham and Windham from southwestern Louisiana is apparently the first for the state. This species is not listed for Louisiana by Thieret (1980), Neyland (2011), Benham and Windham (1993), Thomas and Allen (1993), or the USDA NRCS (2012). It is reported from Arizona, New Mexico, and western and central Texas. There the range extends eastward to Comal and Anderson counties (Diggs et al. 2006; Diggs & Lipscomb 2013), into Austin County (Diggs & Lipscomb 2013) and also to Ellis County (USDA NRCS 2012). A disjunct population is reported from Meriwether County, Georgia (Benham & Windham 1993). A duplicate specimen was verified by Dr. James Peck of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This plant was the only one observed at the site but had multiple stems so our collecting did not eradicate it. The plant is not known to be cultivated in the area so its mode of distribution to this site is unknown. No additional plants of this species were located in a check of the other pillars on this bridge and those of nearby bridges but additional populations of this fern might be found in similar habitats in the future in western Louisiana and eastern Texas.

Voucher specimen: **LOUISIANA. Beauregard Parish:** on pillar of bridge over Trout Creek off US 190 ca. 8 mi W of DeRidder, 28 Apr 2012, McMillian 112 (BRIT, LSU).

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